What is claimed is:

1. Drive device (1) with an electric drive motor (1), with a housing (3, 4, 13), with at least one shaft (8) driven by the drive motor and with compensating means to compensate for axial play of the shaft , characterized in that a tapered thrust bearing (19) is positioned on the shaft (8) as compensating means, which can be radially expanded against spring force, with two contact surfaces (20, 21) tapering radially toward the shaft axis, that the shaft (8) has an annular projection (22) corresponding to one of the contact surfaces (21) and the housing (4, 13) has an annular collar (23) corresponding to the other contact surface (20), where the tapered thrust bearing (19) is positioned under pre-load between the projection (22) and the annular collar (23).

2. Drive device (1) in accordance with claim 1, wherein the contact surfaces (20, 21) run symmetrically at an angle of about 15° to the plane formed by the tapered thrust bearing (19), where the surfaces of the annular collar (23) and of the projection (22) which correspond to the contact surfaces (20, 21) have a matching taper.

3. Drive device (1) in accordance with claim 1, wherein the tapered thrust bearing (19) is slotted.

4. Drive device (1) in accordance with claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the tapered thrust bearing (19) has slot-like recesses in the area of its inner circumference.

5. Drive device (1) in accordance with one of the preceding claims, wherein the tapered thrust bearing (19) has a slotted spring clamping wire.

6. Drive device (1) in accordance with claim 5, wherein the spring clamping wire (32) is located in a groove (29) running around the circumference of the tapered thrust bearing (19).

7. Drive device (1) in accordance with claim 6, wherein the groove (29) has a transverse rib (34) in the area facing away from the slot (27) in the tapered thrust bearing (19) to locate the slot (33) in the spring clamping wire (32).

8. Drive device (1) in accordance with one of the preceding claims, wherein the shaft (8) has an annular groove-like recess (37) in which the tapered thrust bearing (19) is retained by positive engagement.

9. Drive device (1) in accordance with one of the preceding claims, wherein the tapered thrust bearing (19) is made of plastic, specifically a polyamide, where the plastic has an anti-friction coating specifically of graphite, molybdenum disulfide or similar, or contains graphite, molybdenum disulfide or similar.

10. Drive device (1) in accordance with one of the preceding claims, wherein the projection (22) is located on a gear wheel, specifically a worm wheel (7) of a worm gear.

11. Drive device (1) in accordance with one of the preceding claims, wherein the projection (22) is made of a plastic, specifically of polymethylene oxide.

12. Drive device (1) in accordance with one of the preceding claims, wherein the annular collar (23) is located on a housing cover (13) of the housing (4), specifically a zinc die-cast cover.